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#### OFFERINGS TO DROP FROM SKY

George Washington's tomb will be decorated with floral offerings dropped from the skies by 21 airplanes from Bolling Field as a feature of ceremonies in honor of the Father of His Country on the 188th anniversary of his birth next Sunday.

Announcement was made at the War Department last night that the planes would leave Bolling Field in formation at 10:50 a. m., circle over Washington and then fly to Mount Vernon.

Before returning to Bolling Field the fleet again will circle the city. Alexandrians will, of course, witness this aerial fleet, as it will pass over our city going to and coming from Mount Vernon.

About two-thirds of a century ago it became apparent that the railroad, steamboat and telegraph had come to stay, a man enjoying international prominence made this observation: "A man living amid the advantages and activities of the nineteenth century is a condensed Methuselah." Had this great thinker been allowed to look through the telescope into the twentieth century he would have had much more to inject his admiration. At the time he made the above observation flying machines were regarded as impossible, as much so as perpetual motion.

There were no ocean cables at that time, nor wireless telegraphy, nor telephones, nor were railway trains being operated by electricity, nor was that wonderful power superheated steam by furnishing power to factories, etc.

When George Washington paid the debt of nature, one hundred and twenty-one years ago, the world had advanced but little since the days of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob so far as the conduct of business or travel were concerned.

Today airplanes running at the rate of 150 miles an hour are rushing across the skies and next Sunday a fleet of these modern wonders will encircle Mount Vernon and drop flowers upon the tomb of the Father of His Country. In the meantime



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automobiles, "carriages without horses," as foretold by Mother Shipton, will be making railroad time between Alexandria and the Mecca of North America.

#### "BLOOD AND IRON"

An interesting appeal to the Democrats of Germany is made by Dr. Hugo Ganz, a leading Viennese publicist, says the New York Tribune. Writing in the Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Dr. Ganz points out that German Liberals have committed an all but fatal disaster in a systematic effort to educate the German people politically. For fifty years, he says, German Democrats have been stigmatized by the ruling junker class as "impractical idealists." Their endeavors were frustrated by the prevalence of the "blood and iron" ideology of the Bismarckian tradition which permeated every lawyer of the population and became the national creed.

Today, Dr. Ganz continues, Germany may lie prostrate, and her collapse is merely "the inevitable consequence of the methods by which the empire had been created." The outcome of the war brought full justification to the "impractical enthusiasts" of yesterday. The "blood and iron" Realpolitik of the junkers stands revealed before the world as a policy of fallacies. On the contrary, the doctrines preached by the idealists—those of international reconciliation, of peaceful democratic development in good understanding with the other European nations, above all France and England—have proved themselves not only morally right, but also far more realistic. Had the "impractical idealist" prevailed, Dr. Ganz says, Germany would not be today the best hated of all nations, and her contribution to civilization would not be repudiated by a resentful world.

So far, Dr. Ganz concludes, the German Democrats have failed to make the most of this lesson of German disaster. By impressing that lesson upon the German people they would perform a genuine service to their nation and to humanity. Whether, in the present state of the German mind, that lesson would not fall on closed ears is a different question.

#### PICKS SEVENTH VIRGINIAN

In appointing John Garland Pollard, of Richmond, as a member of the Federal Trade Commission, President Wilson gives a major appointment to public service since the beginning of the Wilson Administration. The other six Federal appointments of unusual importance given to Virginians were as follows:

Carter Glass, Secretary of the Treasury; Thomas Nelson Page, Ambassador to Italy; Joseph E. Willard, Ambassador to Spain; Robert W. Woolley, Interstate Commerce Commission; John Skelton Williams, Comptroller of the Currency; H. C. Stuart, Interstate Commerce Commission.

Former Governor Stuart has but recently declined the offer of a place on the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Mr. Pollard was the Attorney General of Virginia under the administration of Governor Stuart. He resigned from that position

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"Gets-It" Never Leaves a Corn On Any Foot For Very Long.

The hurting "new" corns right out of that corn the moment a few drops of "Gets-It" touch them. It is through, and "for keeps."



Corns and "Gets-It" Can't Live Together  
You'll have no more pain but will notice the corn peeling loose and wobbly on a day or so, then it is right on without any further trouble. That's the end of the corn and of your troubles. Millions have proved "Gets-It" to be the only corn-soluble, unflinching, common sense corn remover. Why not you?  
"Gets-It" costs but a trifle at any drug store and carries a money-back guarantee. M'd. by E. Lawrence & Co., Chicago.

shortly before his term expired to engage in Young Men's Christian Association war work in France.

After returning to the United States Mr. Pollard was named by the Secretary of War as a member of the Board of Contract Adjustment and was named chief of the "trial section."

#### SELLING THE SHIPS

It is difficult to understand the favor raised over the auction sale of steamships held by the Shipping Board yesterday. Of course, it is to be taken for granted that there is something wrong about the statement that the board proposes to sell ships worth from \$150,000,000 to \$300,000,000 for \$28,000,000. If they are worth from \$150,000,000 to \$300,000,000, it is to be presumed that something near those figures would have been bid for them yesterday. The ships will go to the highest bidders.

But, assuming that fair prices will be secured, there are obvious reasons why the Government should sell the ships. Government ownership of ships is no more desirable than Government ownership of railroads. Whatever price the ships may bring now the chances are that they will bring less in the future. The prohibition argument is a valid one, Chairman Payne of the Shipping Board says that Government-owned dry ships cannot compete with foreign wet ships. The Government cannot be dry on shore and wet at sea.

The Government should get out of the shipping business while the getting is good, after placing such restrictions on the sale of the ships as will protect the interests of the country. This the Shipping Board seems to have done.—Baltimore Sun.

#### COUNTRY EDITOR'S PASSING

The small country newspaper is dying out. The high price of print paper has caused scores of them to close their doors during the last year. This is a loss to humanity and it makes us sad.

That picturesque figure, the country editor, will presently be no more. All alone he solicited the advertiser.

ing, set the type, read the proofs, operated the press, took care of circulation and chased down delinquent subscribers, besides writing the stories which recorded the arrival of drummers in the village, the Halloween pranks of the boys and the wedding of all the beautiful and cultured young women and the industrious and highly respected men. The world has seen no figure like him and no paper like his paper, and the world will probably fall into a blue funk as he leaves it.

And by the way, we mean not the country and the village alone, but the city also. For where would the humorists of our city papers be and from where would come the smiles of city readers were it not for those, occasional gracious gleanings concerning how "John Jones was shot on his back porch" and "If any man's or woman's cow is caught on Mr. Smith's premises his or her tail will be cut off, as the case may be"? The city, evidently, will be without humor and the city humorist will be without a job. This also is a lugubrious topic.

But perhaps, after all, the situation is not hopeless. Let the city humorists now, when their own position has become precarious, take their vast resources to the country districts and establish papers of their own. Let them in their turn solicit advertising, set type, read proofs, operate the press, manage the circulation and chase down delinquent subscribers, besides writing enough news daily to fill a pretty good-sized city paper.—Detroit News.

#### GRANT HUNS' DEMAND

Allies Agree to Let Germany Try Men Accused of Atrocities  
London, Feb. 17.—The allied reply to the German note of January 25, proposing as an alternative to extradition that persons accused by the allies to be tried at Leipzig, states that Germany's proposal for such trial at Leipzig is compatible with Article 220 of the peace treaty. The allies, the note says, will abstain from intervention in the procedure of that court.

Try a Gazette Classified Ad.

## INFLUENZA

More men have been killed in the United States by influenza since October 1, 1918, than the entire death roll of our soldiers, sailors and marines during the big war. More killed? Yes, ten times as many, and unfortunately the influenza is again with us, while the war is now a matter of history.

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#### TWO MAIN FACTORS

First the Testimony of William Bullitt Before Foreign Relations Committee

Washington, Feb. 17.—There were two main factors in bringing to a climax President Wilson's long-known desire to eliminate Secretary Lansing from his Cabinet, it is declared here.

The first of these, it is said, was the testimony of William Bullitt before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, during which he quoted Secretary Lansing as saying the American people would not support the President's peace treaty if they really understood what it meant.

The second, according to the same source, was the President's belief, derived from Secretary Lansing's summoning of the Cabinet, that Mr. Lansing implied, whether intentionally or not, the President's inability to function as the nation's Executive.

Of the two factors, the second played its part last and hence is regarded here as the immediate reason for the President's summary action.

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#### KEEPS BAN ON DIVORCE

Misunderstanding Caused by Alleged Misstatements

Vienna, Feb. 17.—The statement made by the local newspaper "Der Morgen," February 2 (published in the United States February 9), to the effect that by an announcement authorized by the Pope the marriage of divorcees would be permitted in Austrian Catholic churches beginning the present month, was inaccurate.

The story, it is now said, had as its basis alleged statements of certain priests, who, it is asserted, advised divorcees that they might again

marry before a registrar and continue unimpaired their relations with the church.

The alleged statements of the priests are declared to have carried an implied promise that the remarriage of divorcees shortly would be made regular by the Rome authorities.

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Can we, the wealthiest Christian nation, in the enjoyment of our greatest prosperity, refuse them the bare necessities of life,—food and clothing in the bitter cold of winter.

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